

The planet has been warming and cooling for millennia. Warmer temperatures make it all the more important to match tree density to the ability of the land to support it. That means more logging, not less.

California has taken draconian measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, at a terrible cost for the quality of life of Californians. We now suffer some of the highest costs for energy in the country; we have destroyed our manufacturing base; and we can't guarantee enough electricity to keep our refrigerators running. Yet a single catastrophic fire makes a mockery of all of these laws and the sacrifices they impose on our people.

Governor Newsom says he has no patience for such views. Well, that is a tragedy for all Californians and for all of California's forests.

IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERAN HIGH ALTITUDE AND SUICIDE RESEARCH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the VA High Altitude and Suicide Research Act. I introduced this bipartisan bill to combat a very serious threat to our veteran population.

After serving and protecting our country, our veterans return home only to face new threats. Studies show that veteran suicide is one-and-a-half times higher than nonveteran suicides.

We must do everything we can to understand why our Nation's heroes are taking their own lives, and we must do more to prevent more tragic deaths.

In talking with suicide prevention experts in my home State of Utah, I am told that we need to better understand the possible connection between high altitude and suicide. That is what my bill does.

The VA High Altitude and Suicide Research Act compels the VA to study the link between veteran suicide and high altitude. It also requires the VA to establish effective treatment plans that respond to the threats and to save lives.

As a nation, we have a responsibility to prevent future tragedies and provide these servicemembers with the care that they so desperately deserve.

I thank the House for taking up this important legislation, and I urge adoption.

SUPPORT FOR A SUSTAINABLE, CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of two of my bills included in the Clean Economy and Jobs Innovation Act. This legislative package takes bold and important steps toward a sustainable, clean energy economy. It is not only good for our health and for our environment, but it is good for our economy.

I am particularly pleased to see my legislation included in the package, the

Solar Energy Research and Development Act. This bill authorizes solar energy research, development, and deployment within the Department of Energy.

Utah is a national leader in solar technology and is projected to produce over 1,000 megawatts of solar power in the next 5 years. My bill addresses the very serious threat of climate change, while supporting clean energy jobs.

I am also pleased to see my air quality bill included. The Background Ozone Research Study Act directs the EPA and the National Academies of Science to study the sources of background ozone pollution and to provide actionable steps for cleaning our air.

Mr. Speaker, this bill supports our clean energy economy and addresses our very serious need to address the climate crisis.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FAITH IN CONGRESS ACT

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the FAITH in Congress Act. This bipartisan legislation, introduced by my colleague STEPHANIE MURPHY, seeks to restore trust and faith in Congress as an institution.

As I travel throughout my district and talk with Utahns, there is a common theme that I hear from people of all political walks. That is that our political system is broken, and we need to change the way Washington does business. So this bill takes common-sense, concrete steps to restore that faith through five central pillars:

No automatic pay increases for Members of Congress, which I have fought against since I was first sworn in;

No budget, no pay;

No first-class Member travel at taxpayer expense;

A lifetime ban on lobbying by former Members of Congress; and

Prioritizing bipartisan bills over partisan bills.

That is it. Five simple steps that we should all be able to rally behind.

Mr. Speaker, this is common sense, and I urge the House to take up and pass this legislation without delay.

HONORING STAFF ASSISTANTS, LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENTS, AND LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to thank those young men and women who have served the people of Illinois and the country as staff assistants, legislative correspondents, and legislative assistants.

I include in the RECORD a list of their names.

Blanford, Thomas; Blanford, Meredith; Boyer, Davis; Cardon, Flavio (Amaya); Chang, Albert; Chiang, Alex; Clanahan, Chase; Culp, Grant; Daulby, Jen; Davidsmeyer, CD; DeWitt, Bret; Esposito, Tony; Flanagan, Matt; Goldenstein, Jim; Hatzis, Luke; Haverly, Jordan; Jamison, Reno; Johnson, Matt.

Kirsh, Ari; Lange, Kelly (Childress); Lloyd, Amy (Mathews); Madden, Steve; Mateer,

Mike; Mesack, Michelle (Yahng); Miniati, Charlie; Nordquist, Matt; Olson, Bill; Olson, Richard; Pfister, Sam; Reinhard, Courtney (Anderson); Rislute, Scott; Sarley, Chris; Schonert, Neil; Tvrdy, Joe; Uram, Steve; Wolf, Saralyn (Tucker); Youssefiani, Darius.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, staff assistants are the first person a visitor sees or hears in my D.C. office. First impressions are lasting impressions, so even though they are the lowest on the totem pole, they are very important.

Staff assistants welcome visitors from the district. They help direct them and, many times, conduct tours of the Capitol. They help constituents with hotel information and lists of other tourist venues.

Flags flown over the Capitol are highly sought after. These flags are requested for memorial events and thank-yous. Many times they are needed in a timely manner and, most times, have a specific date that the flag should be flown. Staff assistants ensure that this is done.

The tough part of the job is answering the phones. Sometimes these calls are overwhelming and will get rolled to another staff member. Many times the callers are just plain mean and nasty. Just like in baseball, if the caller says the magic words, they are gone. There is no need to put my staff in that position. It is sad that adults act this way and young adults have to put up with it.

The next position in my office is the legislative correspondent. For me, these folks are concerned with writing and mailing letters in response to inquiries. Since I do not do bulk mailings, this job is even more important in that individual letters received by my office receive an individual response by me. Most of the time, I have constituents thanking me for responding. Very few times did we drop the ball, and if we did, I would circle back with my staff and we would get a letter out.

The legislative correspondent has the legislative assistant's help with the letter, which will be reviewed by my legislative director and the chief of staff. The legislative correspondent gets an idea of the width and the breadth and the depth of policy issues that constituents are concerned with. It is a great place to start.

Sometimes, on a very contentious issue, I will draft the letter myself. These letters have to come from the heart.

Legislative correspondents usually move to the legislative assistant position. Legislative assistants start specializing in specific policy areas. They may have some background in these areas, or they can be totally foreign to them. This is where a college degree based upon research, analysis, and writing pays off.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, my subcommittees have to be covered. But it is not uncommon for staff members to carry a diversified portfolio of issues that they have to follow.